

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. By this Amendment, claim 1 has been amended and claim 12 has been cancelled. No new matter has been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claim 12 would be allowable if amended into independent form to include the features of its base and intervening claims. The Applicants amend claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 12 and cancels claims 12. Therefore, it is believed that claim 1 as well as claims 2-11 and 13-20 which depend on claim 1 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Application No.: 10/763,423
Art Unit: 2624

Amendment under 37 CFR §1.116
Attorney Docket No.: 042046

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TEB', is written over the printed name of Thomas E. Brown.

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